



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CARTERVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Cartersville, Mo., man has pleaded guilty in federal court to providing a residence for the purpose of unlawfully distributing crack cocaine in Jasper County, Mo.

**Larry Darnell Saddler**, also known as Laughin' Larry, 46, of Cartersville, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England on Dec. 6, 2004, to a federal information that charges him with managing a residence at 2116 Grand in Joplin, Mo., which he made available from April 1999 to January 2000 for the purpose of unlawfully distributing crack cocaine. Under the terms of that plea agreement, charges contained in a federal indictment will be dismissed at the time of sentencing.

By pleading guilty, **Saddler** admitted that he made the residence available to co-defendants, and that sales of at least 50 grams but less than 150 kilograms of crack cocaine occurred in several locations within the residence and also outside the residence.

Under federal statutes, **Saddler** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

**Saddler** is among five co-defendants who have pleaded guilty in this case.

\* **Justin L. Triplett**, 30, of Joplin, pleaded guilty on May 12, 2004, to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine between January 1999 and December 2000. **Triplett** admitted that others involved in the conspiracy traveled to Tulsa, Okla., to obtain crack cocaine, which they distributed to **Triplett** when they returned to Joplin. **Triplett** then distributed crack cocaine to other individuals. The total amount of crack cocaine attributable to

**Triplett** during the course of the conspiracy, Graves said, is between 150 and 500 grams.

\* **Ernesto V. Bell**, also known as Stone, 29, who is currently in federal custody, pleaded guilty on Dec. 16, 2002, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. **Bell** admitted that he engaged in the distribution of crack cocaine in the Joplin, Mo., area from August 1999 through February 29, 2000. On February 2, 2000, **Bell** sold approximately one gram of crack cocaine to a confidential informant in two separate transactions, Graves said. On February 29, 2000, after a vehicle chase involving law enforcement officers, **Bell** was arrested and found in possession of a quantity of crack cocaine, money and a loaded Steyr 9mm handgun. According to Graves, the total amount of crack cocaine attributable to **Bell** in the course of the conspiracy is at least 150 grams but less than 500 grams.

\* **Brian L. McDaniel**, also known as Barrion, 29, who is currently in federal custody, pleaded guilty on Dec. 6, 2002, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack. **McDaniel** admitted that he engaged in the distribution of crack cocaine in and around the Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Joplin, Mo., areas as a member of the Tulsa area Red Mob Gangsters street gang, from July 1999 through July 2001. On or about Dec. 9, 1999, **McDaniel** sold approximately one gram of crack cocaine to a confidential informant, Graves said. On different occasions, Graves added, law enforcement officers seized quantities of crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and cash from two homes that were used by **McDaniel** to store and distribute drugs and money. When a search warrant was executed in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on July 8, 2001, officers found **McDaniel** in possession of crack cocaine and cash. According to Graves, the total amount of crack cocaine attributable to **McDaniel** is at least 500 grams but less than 1.5 kilograms.

\* **Victoria Gonzalez**, 27, of Carthage, pleaded guilty on May 6, 2002, to one count of conspiring with others to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. **Gonzalez** admitted that she engaged in the distribution of crack cocaine in the Joplin area from approximately December, 1999 through December, 2000. According to her plea agreement, **Gonzalez** received quantities of crack cocaine from a co-defendant and an associate of his, which she in turn distributed to various individuals. From approximately June, 2000, to December, 2000, **Gonzalez** engaged in a series of crack cocaine transactions with an undercover police officer, selling crack cocaine at her residence in Carthage.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David Rush. It was investigated by the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Jasper County Drug Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Joplin Area Major Case Squad, the Tulsa, Okla., Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Jasper County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Newton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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